

Frequently Asked Questions

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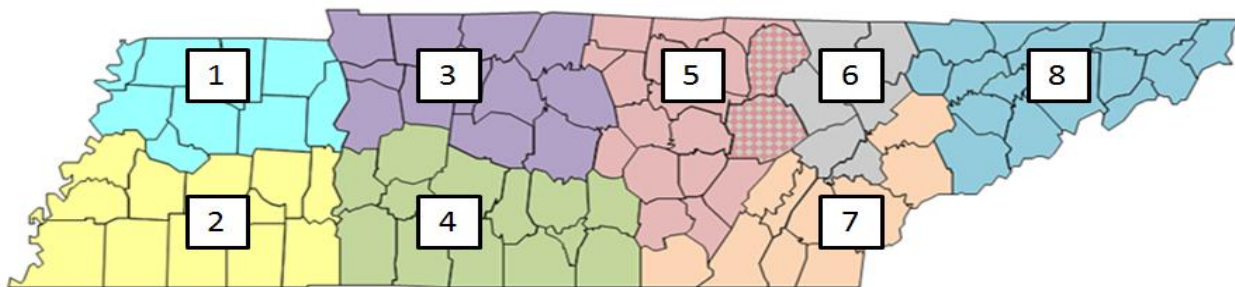
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How many Curriculum Councils are there?

Eight regional Curriculum Councils were formed in partnership with the Tennessee Department of Education Centers of Regional Excellence (CORE) Offices to promote better communication and relationships between K-12 and higher education regarding Common Core implementation.



- | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Northwest | 5. Upper Cumberland |
| 2. Southwest | 6. Big South Fork |
| 3. Mid Cumberland | 7. Southeast |
| 4. South Central | 8. Northeast |

What are the goals of the meeting?

Generally, the goals of the meetings are as follows:

- Build on existing partnerships between regional K-12 districts and Institutions of Higher Education.
- Develop accessible communication pathways between all K-12 and higher education institutions in each region.
- Coordinate a P-16 support system for implementation of the Common Core State Standards.

Who will be at the meetings?

In choosing appropriate stakeholders for these councils, we have selected targeted participants from each agency to attend the first council meeting. In K-12, we have invited primarily district Directors and Supervisors. In Higher Education, we have invited a variety of faculty members who ideally represent the following perspectives: Academic Affairs, Colleges of Education, English, and Math. Our ideal number of attendees for the initial meeting is 1-2 per K-12 district and 3-4 per higher education institution (both public and private).

Additionally, each council meeting will be attended by representatives from the Tennessee Board of Regents, University of Tennessee, the Tennessee Higher Education Commission, and the Tennessee Department of Education.

Below is a list of the original invitees from each higher education institution (though this list does not necessarily indicate who indicated availability to attend). Please note that some institutions' representatives were requested to identify additional invitees, which is why some have only one name listed.

Northwest		Mid Cumberland		Southeast	
Invitees	Institution	Invitees	Institution	Invitees	Institution
Mark Kelley	UT Martin	Dixie Webb	Austin Peay	Susan Groenke	UT Knoxville
Stephanie Kolitsch	UT Martin	Carlette Hardin	Austin Peay	Conrad Plaut	UT Knoxville
Jenna Wright	UT Martin	Nell Rayburn	Austin Peay	Kirsten Benson	UT Knoxville
Betty Cox	UT Martin	Jaime Taylor	Austin Peay	Susan Benner	UT Knoxville
Karen Bowyer	Dyersburg State	Heraldo Richards	Tennessee State	Judy Fethe	Pellissippi State
Andrea Franckowiak	Dyersburg State	Gloria Johnson	Tennessee State	Kathy Byrd	Pellissippi State
Carole Sullivan	Dyersburg State	Jeanetta Jackson	Tennessee State	Lauren Ingraham	UT Chattanooga
Bobby Smith	Jackson State	Jennifer Knapp	Nashville State	Jeff Ellwell	UT Chattanooga
Southwest		Elizabeth Nettles	Nashville State	John Graef	UT Chattanooga
Invitees	Institution	Endora Feick	Nashville State	Robert Denn	Chattanooga State
Allistair Windsor	U of M	Phil Waldrup	MTSU	Kim McCormick	Chattanooga State
Tom Nenon	U of M	Mark Byrnes	MTSU	Christine Couch	Chattanooga State
Sutton Flynt	U of M	Donald Nelson	MTSU	Mitchell Rhea	Cleveland State
Nathan Essex	Southwest State	Margaret Smith	Columbia State	Frederick Wood	Cleveland State
Thad Cockrill	Southwest State	Kay Dayton	Volunteer State	Northeast	
Karen Bowyer	Dyersburg State	Karen Waller	Volunteer State	Invitees	Institution
Bobby Smith	Jackson State	Michael Torrance	Volunteer State	William Wilson	Northeast State
Mechel Camp	Jackson State	Dawn Copeland	Motlow State	Malissa Trent	Northeast State
Upper Cumberland		South Central		Allana Hamilton	Northeast State
Invitees	Institution	Invitees	Institution	Xiaoping Wang	Northeast State
Mickey Hall	Volunteer State	Margaret Smith	Columbia State	Bill Kirkwood	ETSU
Kim Caldwell	Volunteer State	Victoria Gay	Columbia State	Hal Knight	ETSU
Holly Anthony	Tennessee Tech	James Smith	Columbia State	Bob Price	ETSU
Paul Semmes	Tennessee Tech	Susanna Holmes	Columbia State	Gordon Anderson	ETSU
Bahman Ghorashi	Tennessee Tech	Dawn Copeland	Motlow State	John LaPrise	Walters State
Dawn Copeland	Motlow State			Lori Campbell	Walters State
Robert Denn	Chattanooga State			Carla Todaro	Walters State
Kim McCormick	Chattanooga State			See Southeast List	UT Knoxville
Christine Couch	Chattanooga State				

Can I invite someone else?

If you are unavailable and/or you know someone who would be appropriate for the initial council meeting, please refer the name of that individual to Melissa.Stugart@tn.gov.

Where and when are the meetings taking place?

Each council meeting will take place from 10:00am-2:00pm with a working lunch. The dates and locations are below.

- September 30
 - Mid Cumberland Council Mtg @ Mid Cumberland CORE in Nashville, TN
- October 2
 - Upper Cumberland Council Mtg @ Tennessee Tech
- October 3
 - Northwest Council Mtg @ UT Martin
- October 7
 - Southeast Council Mtg @ UT Chattanooga
- October 9
 - Northeast Council Mtg @ Professional Development Center in Greeneville, TN
- October 14
 - Southwest Council Mtg @ Tennessee Development District Center
- October 21
 - South Central Council Mtg @ Columbia State Community College

What will we be doing at the first meeting?

The first meeting is designed to be a high-level look at the “Areas of Opportunities,” which are areas of possible focus identified through a state-wide listening tour with both local education agencies and institutions of higher education.

The agenda will remain flexible for each council meeting, but most will generally follow the outline below:

10:00-10:30	Welcome / Introductions / Goals / Norms / Keynote
10:30-11:00	Opening Table Talks <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review of the data (report to be available)• Specific discussion questions to set tone and get group thinking
11:00-12:00	Area of Opportunity Discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Share results from survey on Area of Opportunities• Provide additional information on top 2-3• Table discussions• Share out and consensus
12:00-12:30	Lunch Break/Rapport Building Time
12:30-1:45	Action Plan Development <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Decide on Outcomes and Deadlines• Backwards Planning (decide how often – general timeframe for benchmarks)• Identify Stakeholders from each institution specific to chosen project
1:45	Q and A

What is the time commitment?

Each council will choose their own project and timelines. Those who attend the initial meeting might not ultimately be the most appropriate for the chosen project and continued attendance at meetings.

Generally, we predict that much of the work for each project can be completed and shared electronically, so it will only be necessary to reconvene every 2 months or so.

Can you explain the Areas of Opportunity more?

As mentioned above, the “Areas of Opportunity” were identified through an in-depth tour of the state to identify needs of both higher education and K-12 districts related to the implementation of the Common Core State Standards. Each invitee received the following chart to help select the top focus interests from their perspective. We are using the information from the RSVPs to help determine the focus for the agendas at each council meeting.

On your RSVP, select the area of focus that most speaks to a need that you have. If you are unfamiliar with any of the concepts listed in the sample projects, feel free to ask additional questions. However, please be aware that we will thoroughly review each of these areas at the initial meeting.

Areas of Opportunity	Sample Projects
Curriculum/Pedagogy Alignment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• ELA/Math Course Sequencing (i.e. integrated math)• 21st Century Skills Integration• Grading/Assessment Alignment
Enhanced Dual Enrollment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increasing Opportunity• Integration/Alignment of Common Core in Curricula• AP/Dual Enrollment Hybrids with Common Core Alignment• Grading/Assessment Alignment
Enhanced Teacher Preparation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Inservice/Preservice Teacher Training• 2+2 Articulation Agreements (Community College to 4 Year Programs)
Item Bank Creation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Development of Items Aligned to Common Core• Professional Development Around Formative Assessment and Item Creation
Joint Professional Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Multi-Tier (Middle, High, and College) Training:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Common Core Content and Strategies○ PARCC Assessment○ Response to Intervention (RTI) + Common Core
Sharing Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Development of Web Space to Host Common Core Resources• Identification of ways to share space for enhancement of programming

How can I stay up-to-date?

Each Curriculum Council will have its own website, linked from an overview site [here](#).

You may also sign up for our quarterly newsletter by completing the form [here](#).